

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form to secure the allowance of claims 3-7, 10-14, 16 and 17.

Claim 1 is rejected as anticipated over Nobileau USP 4,903,776. This rejection is traversed as the Examiner has read features into this reference that it simply does not possess. The Nobileau reference runs in a string and lands it on shoulder 13, as shown in Figure 1b. The string is cemented through passage 18 with the seal 81 retracted to allow the cement to pass. After the cement sets the seal assembly is driven into place, as shown in Figure 2b. While not specifically stated the cement is allowed to set up and then the string can be tested with the cement set. After that the string is firmly in place and the mandrel is operated to release the running tool from the string, as shown in Figure 4a. There is no tensioning step recited in this completion. This completion depends on weight acting on support shoulder 13, so pulling tension on the string will undesirably lift it from its support shoulder 13 and result in an improper placement of the seal 81 that is tied to having the string properly sitting on the support shoulder 13. Furthermore the string is fully cemented and any forces applied to the mandrel of the running tool will simply result in release of the running tool rather than any tension experienced by the already cemented string.

In short, the cited reference does not perform tensioning of the string at all, much less in a single trip, as claimed in claim 1. Allowance of the remaining claims 1, 2 and 15 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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